48 ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

"You are not attending!" said the Mouse to Alice, severely. "What are you thinking of?"

"You had got to the fifth bend, I think?"

"I had not!" cried the Mouse, sharply and very angrily.

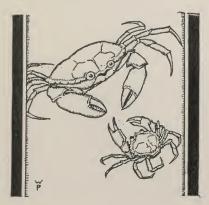
"A knot!" said Alice, always ready to make herself useful, and looking anxiously about her. "Oh, do let me help to undo it!"

"I shall do nothing of the sort," said the Mouse, getting up and walking away. "You insult me by talking such nonsense!"

"I didn't mean it!" pleaded poor Alice. "But you're so easily offended, you know!"

The Mouse only growled in reply.

"Please come back, and finish your story!" Alice called after it. And the others all joined in



chorus "Yes, please do!" But the Mouse only shook its head impatiently, and walked a little quicker.

"What a pity it wouldn't stay!" sighed the Lory, as soon as it was quite out of sight. A CAUCUS-RACE AND A And an old Crab took the opposite her daughter "Ah, my dear! to you never to lose your tem tongue, Ma!" said the young pishly. "You're enough to try oyster!"

"I wish I had our Dinah h said Alice aloud, addressing no "She'd soon fetch it back!"

"And who is Dinah, if I m the question?" said the Lory.

Alice replied eagerly, for slato talk about her pet: "Dinah's such a capital one for catchinthink! And oh, I wish you of the birds! Why, she'll eat a lillock at it!"

This speech caused a remarkable sensation among the party. Some of the birds hurried off at once: one old Magpie began wrapping itself up very carefully, re-